

# Summary of Accomplishments – 2007

## West Valley Citizen Task Force

---

### Introduction

This report summarizes the accomplishments, activities, attendance and 2007 year-end survey results for the West Valley Citizen Task Force. This summary is intended to be an aid to discussion and decision-making for 2008 planning.

### Meetings, Presentation and Other Accomplishments

During 2007 the CTF accomplished the following:

- Eleven CTF meetings were held. Topics of presentations and discussions included:
  - **WVDP Status:** Safety, Interim end State, Waste Shipment, North Plateau Groundwater Plume, NDA cap, EIS schedule, contract procurement and transition to WVES, “The Way Ahead”, Core Team progress reports, erosion modeling, EIS historical scope reductions and proposed schedule, HLW tank drying, infrastructure reduction and removal;
  - **NYSERDA updates:** proposed legislation, litigation and mediation, SDA, “Reaction to the Way Ahead”, “Expedited Way Ahead”; and
  - **Other presentations/discussions:** NRC Presentations on West Valley Policy Statement, meeting with Core Team representatives, meeting with New York State Department of Environmental Conservation, exhumation and removal of SDA Wastes, NRC NUREG-1854, review of 1998 CTF Final Report.
- Creation of a CTF Press Release and Media Relations Plan.
- Revisions to the Ground Rules.
- Website transitioned to new host, redesign initiated.

### Correspondence

#### Received

The following correspondence was received by the CTF in 2007:

- Letter from NRC to Lee Lambert dated 2-8-2007 concerning North Plateau Ground Water Plume.
- Town of Concord Resolution 5-2007 concerning the West Valley Demonstration Project.
- NYSERDA Letter dated 6-20-2007 concerning new facilitators.
- NRC Letter to CTF dated 7-19-2007 concerning follow-up questions from April Meeting.

- DOE Letter to Ray Vaughan dated 8-22-2007 concerning applicability of the Federal Advisory Committee Act.
- WVNSCO Letter to Ray Vaughan dated 8-22-2007 concerning underground detection techniques and NDA cap.
- Letter from EPA dated 11-13-2007 concerning Regulator’s Communication Plan, clean closure of North Plateau, and future challenges.

In addition, the CTF received copies of correspondence which was directed to various agencies, regulators and others. That correspondence is available with meeting materials on the website at [www.westvalleyctf.org](http://www.westvalleyctf.org).

## Sent

The following correspondence was sent by the CTF in 2007:

- March 28, 2007 Memo to NRC with questions in anticipation of April 25 meeting.
- August 23, 2007 Letter to the Editor of the Springville Journal concerning coverage of the Groundwater Plume.
- November 28, 2007 Letter to NRC concerning NRC Authority and Obligations.
- Letters to Paul Piciulo and Colleen Gerwitz to express appreciation for their service and support of the CTF.

## Press Releases

- January 2006 *Task Force Pushes for More Cleanup of Groundwater Plume*

Numerous press articles and coverage directly and/or indirectly mentioned the West Valley Demonstration Project and the CTF. These articles are available on the website at [www.westvalleyctf.org](http://www.westvalleyctf.org).

## Membership and Attendance

During the year, several members left the Citizen Task Force and others joined. Pete Cooney resigned as a member and was replaced by his alternate Rob Dallas. Darwin John of the Seneca Nation of Indians was replaced temporarily by Mark Jamison, who was then replaced by Anthony Memmo. Joe Atkinson of the State University at Buffalo and Judy Einach of the Coalition on West Valley Nuclear Wastes joined the CTF. Bill King concluded his years of service to the CTF and as Supervisor to the Town of Ashford. He was replaced in January 2008 by Chris Gerwitz.

The attached color-coded chart depicts the attendance at CTF meetings of members and alternates. The status column indicates if the member or their alternate attended more than half the meetings during the year. The Mission and Ground Rules Section II.A.1. states that “Members who fail to attend half of

the scheduled meetings in a calendar year may be removed from the CTF by consensus of the CTF Members present at the first scheduled meeting of each year.”

## Year-end Survey

An online survey was distributed to members and alternates as of the end of the year and was completed by 17 members and alternates. The survey was adapted and abbreviated from prior year surveys. Answers were based on a five point scale ranging from strongly agree to strongly disagree. The summary indicates the number of responses, the average score of those responses and a standard deviation representing the range of variation among answers. The survey also allowed for open responses.

In general terms, the members responding indicated that they were very satisfied with interactions among the group, satisfied with interactions with NYSERDA and less satisfied with interactions with DOE. This follows trends from prior years. CTF meetings are seen as generally productive and providing a forum for open discussion. Members felt they had an opportunity for input and acting as a voice for the surrounding community. As with prior years, members expressed reservations about outreach to constituents and the public and the level of understanding by the local community of the issues being addressed by the CTF. Overall the CTF was satisfied with the work of the facilitators.

Detailed survey results are attached.

| Name                               | 24-Jan | 28-Feb | 28-Mar | 25-Apr | 21-May | 27-Jun | 25-Jul | 22-Aug | 26-Sep | 24-Oct | 28-Nov | Present | Alt Present | Absent |
|------------------------------------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|---------|-------------|--------|
| <b>Members</b>                     |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |         |             |        |
| Joe Atkinson                       | na     | na     | na     | na     | na     | na     | na     | na     | na     | na     | y      | 1*      |             |        |
| Mike Brisky                        | y      | n      | a      | a      | n      | a      | y      | y      | y      | y      | y      | 6       | 3           | 2      |
| Pete Cooney                        | y      | y      | y      | a      | n      | a      | na     | na     | na     | na     | na     | 3*      | 2*          | 1      |
| Rob Dallas                         | na     | na     | na     | na     | na     | na     | y      | n      | y      | y      | n      | 3*      | 2*          |        |
| Andrew Eszak                       | a      | a      | n      | a      | n      | n      | a      | n      | a      | a      | a      | 0       | 7           | 4      |
| Judy Einach                        | na     | na     | na     | na     | na     | na     | na     | na     | na     | na     | y      | 1*      |             |        |
| Mike Hutchinson                    | n      | n      | a      | y      | n      | y      | a      | y      | n      | n      | y      | 4       | 2           | 5      |
| Mark Jamison                       | na     | na     | na     | na     | na     | na     | na     | y      | y      | y      | na     | 3*      |             |        |
| Darwin John                        | y      | n      | n      | n      | n      | n      | n      | na     | na     | na     | na     | 1*      |             | 6*     |
| Bill King                          | y      | n      | y      | a      | y      | y      | y      | y      | y      | n      | y      | 8       | 1           | 2      |
| Steve Kowalksi                     | y      | n      | y      | n      | y      | y      | y      | n      | y      | n      | y      | 7       |             | 4      |
| Lee Lambert                        | y      | y      | y      | y      | y      | y      | y      | y      | y      | y      | y      | 11      |             |        |
| Anthony Memmo                      | na     | na     | na     | na     | na     | na     | na     | na     | na     | na     | y      | 1*      |             |        |
| Joe Patti                          | y      | n      | y      | y      | y      | y      | y      | y      | y      | y      | y      | 10      |             | 1      |
| John Pfeffer                       | y      | n      | y      | y      | n      | n      | y      | n      | n      | n      | y      | 5       |             | 6      |
| Pete Scherer                       | y      | y      | y      | n      | n      | y      | y      | n      | y      | y      | y      | 8       |             | 3      |
| Tim Siepel                         | y      | y      | y      | y      | n      | y      | y      | y      | y      | y      | y      | 10      |             | 1      |
| Julie Sirianni                     | n      | y      | a      | y      | n      | a      | a      | a      | a      | a      | a      | 2       | 7           | 2      |
| Bill Snyder                        | n      | y      | y      | n      | a      | n      | y      | y      | y      | n      | y      | 6       | 1           | 4      |
| Ray Vaughan                        | y      | y      | y      | a      | y      | y      | y      | y      | y      | y      | y      | 10      | 1           |        |
| Eric Wohlers                       | y      | n      | y      | y      | n      | y      | n      | y      | y      | n      | y      | 7       |             | 4      |
| <b>Alternates</b>                  |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |         |             |        |
| Rob Dallas (Cooney)                | u      | u      | u      | y      | u      | y      | na     | na     | na     | na     | na     | 2*      |             |        |
| Judy Einach (Vaughan)              | u      | n      | u      | y      | u      | u      | y      | y      | y      | y      | na     |         |             |        |
| Tim Lund (Kowalski)                | n      | n      | u      | u      | u      | u      | n      | n      | n      | n      | n      |         |             |        |
| Chris Pawenski (Eszak)             | y      | y      | n      | y      | n      | n      | y      | n      | y      | y      | y      | 7       |             | 4      |
| Bob Potter (King)                  | u      | n      | u      | y      | u      | u      | y      | n      | y      | n      | n      |         |             |        |
| Paul Salzler (Snyder)              | u      | u      | u      | u      | y      | n      | n      | n      | n      | n      | n      | 1       |             |        |
| Warren Schmidt (Brisky & Sirianni) | n      | u      | y      | y      | n      | y      | y      | y      | y      | y      | y      | 8       |             | 2      |
| Carol Scheibley (Hutchinson)       | n      | u      | y      | u      | n      | u      | y      | n      | n      | n      | n      | 2       |             | 4      |

y = Present    n = absent    a = represented by alternate    na = not applicable during this time  
 u = unknown if present or absent at this meeting    \*= member part of year

# West Valley CTF 2007 Evaluation

## Analysis of Responses

### Disagree ↔ Agree Questions

| Section / Question   | Response Count | Avg  | Disagree ↔ Agree | Std Dev |
|--|----------------|------|------------------|---------|
| <b>CTF PROCESS AND PARTICIPATION</b>   |                |      |                  |         |
| I am satisfied that affected interests are represented on the CTF.   | 16             | 4.31 |                  | 0.46    |
| I am comfortable asking questions and speaking candidly about issues in the CTF process.   | 17             | 4.24 |                  | 0.94    |
| I am comfortable working with other CTF participants and discussing issues of concern with them.   | 17             | 4.47 |                  | 0.50    |
| I believe NYSERDA is genuinely interested in understanding the views of the CTF.   | 16             | 4.44 |                  | 0.61    |
| I believe DOE is genuinely interested in understanding the views of the CTF.   | 17             | 3.06 |                  | 1.11    |
| I believe the CTF is genuinely interested in understanding the views of NYSERDA.   | 15             | 4.40 |                  | 0.80    |
| I believe the CTF is genuinely interested in understanding the views of DOE.   | 16             | 4.06 |                  | 0.97    |
| The CTF is appropriately addressing its objectives as specified in the Ground Rules by:  |                |      |                  |         |
| Providing a forum for open discussion of related issues by community representatives.  | 17             | 4.24 |                  | 0.42    |
| Identifying and understanding the various interests of the community and other interested parties.   | 15             | 4.13 |                  | 0.50    |
| Increasing the flow of information between DOE, NYSERDA and the Task Force Members (and their constituencies).   | 16             | 3.88 |                  | 0.78    |
| Expanding areas of agreement, clarifying differences, and exploring ways to establish mutually agreed upon recommendations among the Task Force Members. | 15             | 3.80 |                  | 1.05    |
| Enhancing public involvement in the decision-making process.   | 16             | 3.38 |                  | 0.93    |
| Coordinating with regulators.  | 16             | 3.44 |                  | 0.79    |
| I would like the CTF to address the following issues in 2008:  | NA             | NA   | See attached.    | NA      |
| Other comments on process and participation:   | NA             | NA   | See attached.    | NA      |
| <b>CTF FACILITATORS</b>  |                |      |                  |         |
| The facilitators help the CTF participants engage in the process.  | 16             | 3.94 |                  | 0.75    |
| The facilitators help the CTF manage time well.  | 16             | 3.88 |                  | 0.60    |
| The facilitators have reached out to understand my issues and concerns.  | 15             | 4.00 |                  | 0.82    |
| The facilitators are open to feedback and suggestions.   | 15             | 4.07 |                  | 0.85    |
| The facilitators have come to understand the key issues.   | 15             | 3.73 |                  | 0.57    |
| The facilitators are prepared for meetings and understand the interests of the members.  | 16             | 4.13 |                  | 0.70    |
| The facilitators uphold the ground rules.  | 15             | 4.13 |                  | 0.81    |
| The facilitators work in an impartial manner.  | 15             | 3.93 |                  | 0.93    |
| The facilitators help the CTF deal with difficult issues in a constructive manner.   | 15             | 3.87 |                  | 0.62    |
| Other comments or suggestions for the CTF facilitators:  | NA             | NA   | See attached.    | NA      |

# West Valley CTF 2007 Evaluation

## Analysis of Responses

### Disagree ↔ Agree Questions

| Section / Question   | Response Count | Avg  | Disagree ↔ Agree | Std Dev |
|--|----------------|------|------------------|---------|
| <b>CTF MEETINGS</b>  |                |      |                  |         |
| The CTF meetings are productive.   | 16             | 3.75 |                  | 0.43    |
| The presentations provided by agency staff meet the information needs of the CTF participants.                 | 15             | 3.67 |                  | 0.94    |
| The format of the CTF meetings provides for open discussion of the key issues.                                 | 16             | 4.31 |                  | 0.85    |
| CTF meetings for 2008 should:  |                | NA   | See attached.    | NA      |
| Other comments or suggestions on CTF meetings:   | NA             | NA   | See attached.    | NA      |
| <b>CTF EFFECTIVENESS</b>   |                |      |                  |         |
| The CTF is an effective voice for the surrounding community.   | 16             | 3.81 |                  | 0.88    |
| The CTF process provides a full and balanced exchange of views, information and advice: (Check all that apply) | NA             | NA   | See attached.    | NA      |
| I am able to provide input on significant issues in a timely manner.   | 16             | 3.69 |                  | 0.85    |
| I have developed positive relationships with the other CTF participants.                                       | 15             | 4.47 |                  | 0.62    |
| Other comments or suggestions concerning CTF effectiveness:  | NA             | NA   | See attached.    | NA      |
| <b>CTF OUTREACH</b>  |                |      |                  |         |
| The CTF is effective at sharing information with members' constituents and the community.                      | 15             | 3.20 |                  | 0.91    |
| I keep my constituents informed of the CTF developments and issues.  | 15             | 3.67 |                  | 0.70    |
| I participate in the WVDP Quarterly Public Meetings to keep current on the issues.                             | 13             | 2.69 |                  | 1.38    |
| The local community understands the issues being addressed by the CTF.   | 15             | 2.47 |                  | 1.09    |
| Other comments or suggestions concerning CTF outreach:   | NA             | NA   | See attached.    | NA      |

## Open Responses to 2007 Year-end Survey

### CTF Process and Participation

I would like the CTF to address the following issues in 2008:

- Significant changes in the environmental monitoring program.
- The process toward cleanup from this point forward; getting the ear of the congressional delegation from WNY; PR in general... drawing in the public via newspapers, radio, website ... whatever works.
- Continue to look for new ways to inform the public of the CTF process and the situation at WV.
- Continue to work with DOE and NYSERDA to obtain their commitment to make necessary site closure decisions in the foreseeable future; continue to work with regulators to ensure that legal and regulatory bounds on DOE and NYSERDA decisions are clearly articulated and recognized by all parties; continue and expand our public outreach.
- I believe the future goals of the CTF are directly tied to the "Preferred Alternative" unveiled on 1/23/08.
- More specifics on materials presented in Oct. & Nov. of 2007.
- EPA issues and working with them to better understand them.
- EIS / Preferred Alternative N. Plateau Groundwater Plume.
- Plume, environmental impact statement.

Other comments on process and participation:

- I believe the CTF could improve interaction with regulators. DEC, EPA. NRC etc. We spend too much effort reacting to DOE decisions. The recent position of EPA on site cleanup and its effect on the outcomes we are seeing from the Core Team efforts demonstrate the value of interaction with regulators. We may also wish to explore the declining roll of DOH in site environmental monitoring.
- Sometimes I think a few of our members become bogged down in their own government roles - no firm stand.
- Please note that I am a new member and have attended only one meeting so far, so my opinions are not formed on some of the questions.

### CTF Facilitators

Other comments or suggestions for CTF facilitators:

- Still getting to know you; seems fine thus far.
- Facilitators are doing a good job of learning a complex set of issues and interests.
- Again, I simply do not have sufficient experience to competently answer many of these questions.
- Need to restrict public comments to comments only, not questions that turn into a Q & A period.
- These facilitators are good, but I didn't see a need to get rid of Melinda.

## CTF Meetings

### CTF Meetings for 2008:

Half the respondents indicated that meetings should continue on a monthly basis. The other half indicated that the frequency of meetings be adjusted as appropriate to the workload.

### Other comments of suggestions for CTF meetings:

- Should we try to develop a position on the Yucca issue as suggested by the Core Team?
- Need to end on time; noticeable flagging of energy by 9:45, so if we go past 9:30, thinking is rushed.
- Not always enough time for discussion.

## CTF Effectiveness

### The CTF process provides a full and balanced exchange of views, information and advice:

- With other members: 92.3% agreed
- With NYSERDA: 92.3% agreed
- With DOE: 53.8% agreed
- With Core Team agencies: 23.1%

### Other comments on CTF effectiveness:

- Concerning full and balanced exchange: Exchange of views is provided, but 1) all members are not always there to express thoughts; many do not comment at all, so little is known of their thought process; perhaps some get lost in the lingo and are reluctant to ask for explanation or clarification.
- Concerning full and balanced exchange: I would rate exchange with other members highest, with NYSERDA next highest, and with DOE and Core Team lowest. Full and balanced exchange w/DOE and Core Team is often difficult because we seem to have different understandings of the WVDP Act's closure requirements, the enforceability of these requirements, the need for clear cut decision making, etc. The CTF can play an effective role in any case, but our effectiveness and the overall site closure process would be improved if we could clear up these misunderstandings.
- So far, so good.
- Is the CTF providing NYSERDA, DOE, and others with the input needed to get the job done.
- Sometimes I think we are accomplishing something, sometimes I don't.

## CTF Outreach

### Other comments and suggestions concerning CTF outreach:

- Maybe we could find more effective ways to share information with the community.
- Not only is it difficult to summarize the happenings at meetings, but only a limited number of lay people even begin to understand, so it is hard to keep them "informed". Further, I seriously doubt whether even the local community has a clue as to the real status of the site and the issues yet to be resolved.



- Given the current focus on preferred alternatives and the expectation that a Draft EIS will be issued soon, this year is a good time to expand our outreach and make sure the public is engaged in reaching a good decision.
- Most people are like sheep...they don't move until the wolf bites them in the butt!